

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

ACDA-19 USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01

/173 W

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O 122318Z APR 74 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3522

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

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ZFF SECSTATE, BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJ: LEBANESE LTR TO SC PRESIDENT DENYING RESPONSIBILITY FOR
KIRYAT SHMONA INCIDENT

1. COUNSELLOR MAHMASSANI (LEBANON) INFORMED US AT 6:00 PM,
APRIL 12, THAT HE HAD JUST DELIVERED LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF SC
REJECTING ISRAELI ACCUSATIONS THAT KIRYAT SHMONA TERRORISTS
OPERATED FROM LEBANON AND FOREWARNING SC OF TENOR OF THREATS
MADE BY ISRAELI OFFICIALS AGAINST LEBANON. MAHMASSANI VOICED
DEEP CONCERN AND RESENTMENT. ON PERSONAL TERMS HE ASKED US TO
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EMPHASIZE THAT LETTER "NOT A CONVENTIONAL PLOY."

2. TEXT FOLLOWS.

EXCELLENCY,

I WISH TO REFER TO THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE PERMENENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL, ON APRIL 11, 1974 (DOC. A/9515) AND ON INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOR TO STATE THE FOLLOWING:

1- IN THAT LETTER, IT WAS ALLEGED THAT A "GROUP OF TERRORISTS CROSSED THE ISRAELI/ LEBANESE FRONTIER", AND STAGED AN ATTACK IN KIRYAT SHMONA RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF 18 INHABITANTS AND OF THE ATTACKERS THEMSELVES.

A) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL THROUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL DO NOT CONTAIN ANY CONTENTION THAT NAY INFILTRATION HAS TAKEN PLACE FROM LEBANON INTO ISRAEL.

THIS ALSO HAS BEEN CONFIRMED THROUGH THE CONSULTATIONS THAT THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HAD WITH THE OBSERVERS REGARDING THEIR OBSERVATION, WHO DID NOT RECORD ANY ACTIVITY OR INFILTRATION DURING THIS WEEK ALONG THE LEBANESE BORDRE.

B) IT IS ALSO A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT ISRAEL HAS ERECTED A SYSTEM OF ELECTRIFIED BARBED WIRES ALONG THE LEBANESE BORDER WHICH SEALS ANY CROSSING INTO ISRAEL. THE OBSERVERS ARE IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THIS FACT. CORRESPONDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA WHO VISIT CONSTANTLY BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER REFER OFTEN TO THE ELABORATE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST POSSIBLE INFILTRATION.

C) THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO ASSERT THAT NO INFILTRATION WHATSOEVER HAS TAKEN PLACE FROM LEBANON INTO ISRAEL AND THAT THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE LEBANESE ARMY PREVENT ANY INFILTRATION.

D) MOREOVER THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ASSURANCES FROM THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION THAT IT DOES NOT CONDUCT ANY OPERATION FROM ACROSS THE LEBANESE BORDER. MR. YASSER ARAFAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION, AS WELL AS OTHER PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES DECLARE AND AFFIRM THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS CONDUCTING ITS RESISTANCE MOVEMENT FROM WITHIN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY ELEMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATIONED THERE.

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE KYRIAT SHMONA'S ATTACK BOTH THE PLO AND THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE HAVE DECLARED THAT THE OPERATION WHICH TOOK PLACE THERE WAS UNDERTAKEN BY INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND DID NOT COME FROM OUTSIDE.

E) ISRAEL HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS ALLEGATION. TO THE CONTRARY STATEMENTS MADE IN ISRAEL

CONTRADICT ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN THE LETTER OF THE ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE. MR. SHLOMO HILLEL, MINISTER OF POLICE STATED TODAY THAT "UNTIL NOW I DO NOT KNOW WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED IN KYRIAT SHMONA AND DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE PERPETRATORS CAME FROM INSIDE OR OUTSIDE".

F) IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT ARABS IN ISRAEL ARE DONDUCTING ACTS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST ISRAEL. MR. HILLEL, HIMSELF STATED ON QPRIL 8, 1974 IN A TELEVISED INTERVIEW THAT THOSE ACTS ARE UNDERTAKEN BY A GROUP OF ABOUT 250 ISRAELI ARABS AND THE 400 THOUSAND ISRAELI ARABS SHOULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH ACTS.

2- THE ISRAELI LETTER ALLEGES THAT THE POPULAR FRONT - GENERAL COMMAND ISSUED A STATEMENT IN BEIRUT IN WHICH IT HAS ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK IN KIRYAT SHMONA. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE FALSEHOOD. TWO COMMUNIQUEES WERE ISSUED OUTSIDE OF LEBANON, ONE IN EUROPE AND THE OTHER IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE FACT THAT LEBANON IS KNOWN TO BE A CENTER FOR FREE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND THAT THE COMMUNIQUEES WERE PUBLISHED THERE, AS THEY WERE ELSEWHERE, SHOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A BASIS FOR SUCH AN ABSURD ALLEGATION AND INFER FROM IT THAT LEBANON SHOULD ASSUME RESPON- SIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN KIRYAT SHMONA.

3- THE LETTER AS WELL AS THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, MRS. MEIR ON APRIL 11, 1974 IN THE ISRAELI KNESSET, ATTEMPTED TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN KIRYAT SHMONA. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS LAID THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE DOORSTEPS OF LEBANON EVERY TIME THERE WAS AN ACTION UNDER- TAKEN BY PALESTININA ELEMENTS WHETHER WITHIN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OR ANYWHERE ELSE. ISRAEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS RESORTED ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE PAST TO THIS PRETEXT TO JUSTIFY ITS MANY ATTACKS ON LEBANON.

AT PRESENT, ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE RESORTING TO WORN OUT PRETEXTS IN ORDER TO DIVERT BOTH ISRAELI AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION FROM THE ACUTE POLITICAL CRISIS ENGULFING ISRAEL. THE PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON, MR. TAKIEDDINE EL SOLH HAS REFERRED TO THIS ATTEMPT AS BEING INTENDED FOR INTERNAL CONSUMPTION.

4- NEITHER THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT NOR THE LEBANESE PEOPLE COULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF NONE LEBANESE OPERATING OUTSIDE LEBANON, WHETHER IN ISRAEL OR ANYWHERE ELSE. LEBANON IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACT AS A POLICEMAN TO PROTECT ISRAEL OR ITS CITIZENS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WISH TO REFER TO MY LETTER OF JUNE 5, 1972 (DOC. S/10677)

WHICH CONTAINED A DECLARATION MADE BY H.E. PRESIDENT
SULEIMAN FRANJIEH, IN WHICH HE STATED THAT "LEBANON IS NOT
BOUND IN ANYWAY WHATSOEVER TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY
FOR
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Date: 22 APR 2002
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Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005